

KDHE Successfully Participates in FEMA-Evaluated Wolf Creek Exercise

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On Nov. 16, more than 25 KDHE staff members, including staff from the Office of the Secretary, Divisions of Environment and Health, were participants in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) evaluated exercise involving an accident at the Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station.

Along with KDHE, other participants in this exercise included representatives from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas National Guard, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department on Aging, Civil Air Patrol, and Coffey County Emergency Preparedness.

Clark Duffy, from the Bureau of Air and Radiation, “acted” with Gene Krase from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management as “Unified Commanders” under the Incident Command System during the exercise.

According to the State Emergency Operations Plan, KDHE has been assigned the responsibility to provide “state operational radiological emergency response” for all terrorist or peacetime radiological incidents. Included in this role is the responsibility for conducting radiological monitoring, performing radiation dose assessments and projections, making recommendations regarding the need for actions to be taken to protect the radiological health and safety of the public, assessing contamination to the environment, evaluating and maintaining oversight of the radiation doses received by emergency workers, and providing technical guidance and approval of radiological monitoring, decontamination, and clean-up operations.

On Nov. 18, FEMA held a meeting to provide preliminary results on the exercise from the evaluators. Their initial report was very positive. Of the response at the State Emergency Operations Center in Topeka, FEMA stated that superb teamwork was demonstrated, with good use of Incident Command System principles and Web EOC. Of the response at the Wolf Creek Emergency Operations Facility, FEMA stated that KDHE dose assessment and field team control staff did an excellent job of communicating with other organizations, they were proactive in anticipating protective actions and demonstrated an excellent understanding of dose projection models. Excellent communication was observed between the Joint Radiological Monitoring Teams and the facility. FEMA commended the good teamwork by all participants.

Though the final written report will not be issued by FEMA until 90 days following the exercise, from the preliminary comments it is apparent that this exercise was a com-

plete success. FEMA closed the meeting by thanking all exercise participants for their dedication to the protection and safety of the public.



KDHE's response team at the State Emergency Operations Center during the Wolf Creek exercise included Lesa Roberts and Gail Hansen from the Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control; Mike Tate from the Bureau of Water; Sharon Watson from the Secretary's Office; and Clark Duffy, Mike Martin, Victor Cooper, and Tom Gross from the Bureau of Air and Radiation.



Clark Duffy and Tom Gross confer with representatives from the Kansas Department of Agriculture and Kansas Division of Emergency Management at the State Emergency Operations Center during the Wolf Creek exercise.



Mike Martin and Tom Gross perform their response duties and monitor Web EOC at the State Emergency Operations Center during the Wolf Creek exercise.



The Wolf Creek grid map provides exercise participants with variable information including wind direction, location of potentially affected communities and regions and traffic flow.